

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 5 have been canceled. Claims 1, 3 and 6 have been amended. Claim 7 has been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 1, 3-4, 6 and 7 are currently pending in this application.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The examiner notes that in claim 1, the phrases "another surface" and "just by one layer" are unclear. These phrases have been removed from claim 1. The examiner also notes that claim 2 is indefinite. Claim 2 has been canceled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1, 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by Onishi et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,368,684 (Onishi). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a "thermal transfer ribbon" comprising, in part, "at least one thermofusible ink layer" and "at least one protective layer," . . . "wherein said at least one thermofusible ink layer and said at least one protective layer each contain a material having luminescence, invisible fluorescence or mixture thereof." Onishi fails to disclose a protective layer or thermofusible ink layer containing "a material having luminescence, invisible fluorescence or mixture thereof," as recited by claim 1. Onishi discloses a thermal transfer ribbon that has a protective layer and heat fusible ink layer, but neither of these layers contain "a material having luminescence, invisible fluorescence or mixture thereof." Instead, Onishi discloses that the florescent ink layer is separate from the protective layer, heat fusible ink layers and sublimation dye layers. Onishi at col. 9, lines 1-52; FIG. 2. Thus, Onishi fails to disclose all limitations of amended independent claim 1. For at least these reasons, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being obvious over Onishi in view of Sato, JP 2001322360 (Sato). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For the reasons discussed above, Onishi does not disclose teach or suggest a protective layer or thermofusible ink layer containing "a material having luminescence, invisible fluorescence or mixture thereof," as recited by claim 1. Sato does not supplement Onishi's deficiencies. Sato relates to a thermal transfer ribbon that has heat fusible ink layer on a substrate and a florescent agent on a surface of the heat fusible ink layer. Thus, Onishi, even when considered in combination with Sato, fails to disclose, teach or suggest all limitations of independent claim 1, from which claims 3 and 4 depend. For at least these reasons, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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